

REMARKS

Claims presently pending in this case are 97-131. To that end, note that the claims 17-30, 32-37 and 39-96 have been canceled as being generally similar to claims now presented in a co-pending Application Serial Number 09/316,420. Of the claims herein, only claim 97 is in an independent form and that claim has been amended to further clarify the distinctions from the applied references. The present form of the claim is treated below with regard to the applied references.

At the outset, it is significant to note that the primary reference (U.S. Patent 5,606,496 D'Agostino) is directed to a form of communication terminals, i.e., "*customer terminals*" and "*representative terminals*." Representative terminals are specifically called from customer terminals for communication, see Figure 2.

Significant to the present application is the fact that customers at each customer terminal originate contact with a specific representative terminal (see col. 6, lines 15-18). In contrast to such an overall system, applicant's system involves operations for selectively enabling video communications depending on stored information. That is, a buyer seeking a particular transaction is interconnected to a select vendor by a communication system as defined by the claims. The commercial transaction communication system incorporates "*an interconnect system*" to accomplish selective communication on the basis of stored information and buyer input. With respect to such selectivity, note applicant's specification at page 23, line 10, and page 31, last lines. Contrary to the selectivity operation, as described in D'Agostino, the routing operation is accomplished at the calling terminal, for example by the caller depressing a routing button to attain a specific service, e.g., "*insurance*" (see col. 6, line 30).

Somewhat related to the above distinction, applicant's claims further specify the "*format switch*" for accomplishing communication including video in a compatible one of the specified plural modes (see specification page 21, line 22). Further with regard to the claimed element "*a format switch*" and the recited function of "*a compatible format*" the representative terminal 12B (D'Agostino col. 6, line 48) is void of any such suggestion. Because of the two claimed distinctions, claim 97 is in a form for allowance.

The dependent claims (98-131) are submitted to be allowable on the basis of dependency; however, additionally, several individual distinctions are treated, which are relatively apparent. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of the claims with a view toward allowance.

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